

In the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping alarms in the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service.

2. (Previously presented) A method as described in claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a corrective procedure in response to at least one alarm in said subset of alarms.

3. (Previously presented) A method as described in claim 1, wherein said grouping further associates each group of alarms with a type of said network entity, where a type of said network entity is one of a node, a bay, a quadrant, a slot, a card and a port.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the step of grouping further comprises a step of associating at least one alarm in the subset of alarms with at least two of network entities ~~carrying the service~~ from among said number of network entities.

6. (Previously presented) A method for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping alarms in the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service;

wherein the step of transforming each alarm further comprises the step of forming at least one template including text substitution markers.

7. (Original) A method as described in claim 6, wherein the text substitution markers correspond to network entities.

8. (Previously presented) A method as described in claim 6 wherein said path is a two-way path and the step of arranging the groups of alarms comprises arranging the groups of alarms in a direction of the path from a beginning of the path to an end of the path.

9. (Previously presented) A method as described in claim 6 wherein said path is a two-way path and the step of arranging the groups of alarms comprises arranging the groups of alarms in a direction of the path from an end of the path to a beginning of the path.

10. (Previously presented) A method for describing a problem in a network comprising a number of network entities, the method comprising:

selecting a subset of alarms associated with a service, said service having a unique identifier and being carried by a path in the network, the subset of alarms being selected from a list of alarms in the network;

grouping the subset of alarms associated with said service in a number of groups of alarms, each group of alarms being associated with said service and with a network entity;

arranging the groups of alarms according to a sequence in which they appear in a traversal of the path of the service in the network; and

transforming each alarm in each group of alarms into a problem description for the service;

wherein said problem triggers at least one of:

- a missing channel identification alarm;
- an unexpected channel identification alarm;
- a loss of signal alarm; and
- a channel power out of range alarm.

11. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the description is a verbal description.

12. (Previously presented) A method as described in claim 11, wherein the description is a text description.

13. (Original) A method as described in claim 1, wherein the description is a pictorial description